AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method of detecting a neurodegenerative disease in a mammal, which method comprises assaying the copy number of a *Cripto-1* gene or the expression level of a *Cripto-1* gene product in the central nervous system of the mammal, wherein an amplification of the *Cripto-1* gene or an overexpression of the *Cripto-1* gene product is indicative of a neurodegenerative disease in the mammal.

2.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting progression of a neurodegenerative disease in a mammal, which method comprises administering to the mammal an agent that inhibits *Cripto-1* in an amount effective to inhibit *Cripto-1* in the central nervous system of the mammal, whereupon the progression of the neurodegenerative disease is inhibited.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of NeuroAIDS, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS, Parkinson's disease, and encephalitis.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a human.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is an oligonucleotide that hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a *Cripto-1* protein.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is an antibody that specifically binds to a *Cripto-1* protein.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is a peptide that specifically binds to a *Cripto-1* protein.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is a mutant *Cripto-1* protein.

14. (Withdrawn) An isolated or purified oligonucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence of AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) or AGAAAGGCAGATGCCAACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises assaying the expression level of the *Cripto-1* gene product.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of NeuroAIDS, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease, and encephalitis.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the mammal is a human.

18. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the method comprises using a cDNA array and/or comprises non-quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein RT-PCR is carried out with oligonucleotide probes consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequences AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) and AGAAAGGCAGATGCCAACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).

20. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the expression level of a *Cripto-1* gene product is assayed from cerebrospinal fluid obtained from the mammal.

21. (New and Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises assaying the copy number of the *Cripto-1* gene.

22. (New and Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of NeuroAIDS, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease, and encephalitis.

23. (New and Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human.

24. (New and Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the method comprises using a cDNA array and/or comprises non-quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

25. (New and Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein RT-PCR is carried out with oligonucleotide probes consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequences AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) and AGAAAGGCAGATGCCAACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).

26. (New and Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the copy number of the *Cripto-1* gene product is assayed from cerebrospinal fluid obtained from the mammal.